

REMARKS

Re-examination and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested.

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 10, 13 and 16 are allowable over the art of record.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §102(a) rejection of claims 11, 12, 14 and 15 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,845,015 to MARTUCCI.

In order to advance the prosecution of the present application, Applicant cancels, without prejudice, claims 11, 12, 14 and 15. However, such cancellation is not to be taken as an acquiescence of the appropriateness of the rejection. Further, Applicant reserves the right to submit similar type claims in another application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1-9 as being obvious over MARTUCCI in view of U.S. Patent 6,424,974 to TAKAHASHI et al., (hereinafter TAKAHASHI), or U.S. Patent 5,159,468 to YOSHIDA et al., (hereinafter YOSHIDA).

According to a feature of the instant invention, the reduced image generating processor obtains an average value of a predetermined number of pixel values that are included in a first matrix, and sets an average value as one pixel value corresponding to a predetermined number of pixels included in a second matrix. Applicant submits that MARTUCCI fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's reduced image generating processor.

Specifically, Applicant submits that MARTUCCI fails to disclose or suggest a reduced image generating processor that obtains an average value of a predetermined number of pixel values included in a first matrix, and then sets an average value as one pixel value corresponding to a predetermined number of pixels included in a second matrix. Applicant further submits that this feature is also lacking from TAKAHASHI and YOSHIDA.

In rejecting claims 1-9, the Examiner asserts that TAKAHASHI discloses an averaging filter operation to obtain a reduced number of pixels. Applicant respectfully submits that this assertion is incorrect. While TAKAHASHI may disclose a reduced image generating processor, Applicant submits that TAKAHASHI does not teach (or suggest) that a reduced image generating processor obtains an average value of pixel values in a first matrix and sets an average value in the second matrix, as taught by Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant submits that if one attempted to combine the teachings of MARTUCCI and TAKAHASHI in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such a combination would lack all the features of Applicant's invention, as defined by the amended claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the claims of the present application are not rendered obvious over MARTUCCI and TAKAHASHI.

Further, Applicant submits that YOSHIDA also fails to disclose or suggest that which is lacking from MARTUCCI and TAKAHASHI. In this regard, Applicant notes that the Examiner asserts that YOSHIDA actually discloses reducing the number of pixels. Applicant

submits that YOSHIDA discloses a filtering process (see for example, column 3, lines 41 through column 4, line 28). YOSHIDA does not disclose/suggest Applicant's operation of obtaining an average value of a number of pixel values of a first matrix, and/or setting an average value as one pixel value that corresponds to a number of pixels of a second matrix. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the combination of MARTUCCI and YOSHIDA also fails to render the present invention (as defined by the claims) obvious.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the ground for the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection no longer exists. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this ground of rejection, to indicate the allowability of the pending claims, and to pass the application to issue.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In view of the fact that the art of record, whether considered alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the present invention as now defined by the pending claims, and in further view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's action and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested and are believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be

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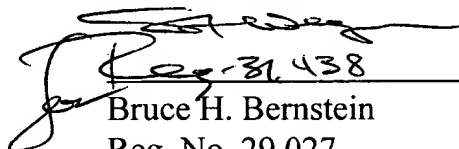
considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

If there should be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

October 1, 2004
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Respectfully submitted,
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